

Surveillance- of me?

Ordinarily I pay no attention to such things. They have happened and are real, but to be influenced by them is crippling and there is nothing one can do about them. I never look back when I am away, for example, make almost completely free use of the phone, etc. But recently there have been several things that if innocent, are a remarkable coincidence.

Letters from Outerbridge and Lazarus have been opened, as was the last letter from James Earl Ray (which either makes no sense or is by someone without access to the in-jail examination that is always made. It was opened and it had been sealed, for the mark of the sealing is on the body of the envelope.)

Coinciding with the intensity of the Post's interest in the Dirtydickery, there was a funny thing with my phone. We are on a completely automated, completely-unstaffed exchange that physically is in a remote area. Only phone-company employees would be expected to have access. I know from when I got my phone fixed by a local expert so I can have a direct tap on it for the tape recorder that the custom is observed locally, that is, pairs of wires are run from the board to extra phones that are installed elsewhere. I then learned of one man who had two such direct taps, ordinarily detectable by the phone company only and then by physical examination of the board.

Our phone rang one evening ~~fixxtif~~ three different times, as I recall, and there was nobody on the line. Later I learned that our nephew and his mother had tried to call us five times at that time and nothing happened. Nothing at all. But my phone did ring three of those five times. This does not sound like the kind of mechanical trouble that would be self-correcting.

Also at about the same period of time we came home and I noted some small things not where they usually are. Like a stitch-counter of Lil's that was on the floor. It would not have been undetected if it had been there last time I was in the living room. I saw it as soon as we returned. The living-room door we never use and is automatically locked when it is closed also was open. It is on the side of the house toward the woods and away from the lane, away from the door we use almost without deviation, the back door. That particular door, the open one, works very hard. It is an exceptionally tight fit and is well weatherstripped. It could not possibly have blown open, but if it had, it would have been more than just ajar. So, it seems possible that someone had left by it and knew that closing it would make a noise. That would be true of any door.

Tonight when I tried to use the phone, I could hear the clicking of relays, as though the number I dialed was being used in dialing, but there was no answer at the end when I repeatedly said "hello". I immediately phoned the number I had called, got an answer, and they were not dialing their phone.